

Creating Shared Experience. Sensory ethnography and collaborative filmmaking

In the intersecting fields of documentary and visual anthropology, the experimental modes of sensory ethnography and collaborative filmmaking have challenged representational traditions of audiovisual research. Both styles of anthropological practices deploy multisensory qualities of film not only to document and investigate, but also to participate and intervene in complex social and ecological environments. In the same line of thinking, visual and acoustic strategies provide occasions for creating new forms of relationality. In this conference, we would like to address the role of sensory experience in collaborative research practices and, vice versa, the production of what we call shared sensory experiences in collaborative filmmaking.

Creating shared experience brings together scholars and filmmakers, practitioners and theorists from (visual) anthropology, film and media studies in order to discuss past and future intersections of collaborative and multisensory research in relation to activism and social change as well as to new forms of a shared ethnographic experience.

Although sensory and collaborative approaches are rooted in different genealogies, they are both influenced by discussions in postcolonial theory, emancipatory movements and activism aiming at enabling different experiences, altering epistemologies and emancipatory representations through the very medium of film and the process of filmmaking. On the one hand, the conference will explore how experience is inventive and creative. On the other, it considers how Creating shared experience of collaborative filmmaking can become a platform for bringing together research and social practices.

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Creating

Friday, February 15th
→ IKKM Lounge

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Section 2: Histories of Collaboration

Henning Engelke Sharing Difference/
Understanding Media: Cinematic
Research, Visual Anthropology and
Ecologies of Communication in the 1960s

Anja Dreschke und Michaela Schäuble
Mediating Tarantism – How to Create
Shared Experiences of an Apulian Ritual

12 – 1 p.m.

Lunch

1 – 3 p.m.

Section 3: Sensory Ethnography: Sound
and Gesture

Anna Lisa Ramella Sounding Out the
Field – Sensory Experiences of an
Ethnography on Tour

Marion Biet From the Film Gesture to
the Gestures in the Film »L'usine, c'est
particulier quand même« (DE/FR 2017)

3 – 3:30 p.m.

Walk to Lichthaus cinema // coffee

→ Lichthaus Cinema

3:30 – 5:30

Keynote 2 Elizabeth Povinelli: Bait, Lure,
MacGuffin: The Ends of the Anthro-
pology of Art

Screening »The Mermaids, or Aiden
in Wonderland« (2018) Karrabing Film
Collective

6:00 – 7:00

Buffet

7:00 – 9:00

Screening »Les Sauteurs« (2016) and
Q&A with Filmmakers Abou Bakar Sidibé,
Moritz Siebert, and Estephan Wagner

Shared

Saturday, February 16th
→ IKKM Lounge

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Section 4: Collaboration Today

Martin Gruber Collaborative Ethno-
graphic Filmmaking as Applied
Research & Intervention

Ulrike Mothes Auto-Ethnography and
Peoples Film Collectives. Current
Collaborative Documentary Projects
in India

Coffee

Andrew Irving The Man Who Almost
Killed Himself: Three Modes of
Collaboration

Johannes Sjöberg SuperManc, Super-
Milanese and SuperSwede: Filming
Participatory Superhero Performances
in Ethnographic Research on European
Urbanity

2 – 2:30 p.m.

Buffet

2:30 – 3 p.m.

Closing discussion

→ Venues:

Kino Lichthaus

Am Kirschberg 4, 99423 Weimar

IKKM Lounge in der Universitätsbibliothek

Steubenstr. 6-8, 99423 Weimar

Thursday, February 14th
→ Lichthaus cinema

2 – 2:15 p.m.

Welcome Note by Christiane Voss,
Director of KOMA (Kompetenzzentrum
Medienanthropologie, Bauhaus-
Universität Weimar)

2:15 – 3 p.m.

Introduction (Julia Bee, Sven Seibel)

Section 1: Sensory Ethnography

3 – 5 p.m.

Screening »MANAKAMANA«
(Stephanie Spray/Pacho Velez 2013)

5 – 5:30 p.m.

Coffee Break

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Keynote 1 Stephanie Spray: On Intimacy
and Deceptive Traces in Sensory
Ethnography

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Dinner at Lichthaus cinema

7:30 – 9 p.m.

Screening »Who Does the Earth Think
It Is? Becoming Fire« (2019), Q&A with
filmmaker Elke Marhöfer

Experience